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UA12/2/1 Year in Review 2009-2010

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2009-2010

A College Heights Herald Graduation Special Section ♦ May 7, 2010



Seniors completing bucket list

By KATHERINE WADE

diversions@chherald.com

When the movie "The Bucket List" came out in 2007, some people began asking themselves what they'd do if they knew when death was coming.

But Glasgow seniors Tessa Norris and Laura Bowles are asking a slightly different question: "With one semester left at Western, what should I do?"

Norris and Bowles said they came up with the list during winter break.

"Everybody has things they want to do before they graduate," Norris said. "You spend four years of your adult life here, and it's about being involved on campus. I think that's really important."

Bowles said it was easy to get stuck in a routine and forget to have fun.

"It's just go to work, go to class, get it done, get out of here," she said. "Putting it on paper helps give you incentive to stop talking about it and do it."

Their list consists of 20 Western-related activities to complete before graduation, including taking a tour of the Kentucky museum, kissing someone on the Kissing Bridge and sledding down Hospital Hill.

"I broke my tail bone when we sledded down Hospital Hill," Norris said.

Bowles said they went sledding the day classes were canceled earlier this semester.

"We sledded for hours," she said. "We built a snowman out there. It was so cute."

Another thing they have checked off the list was to park illegally for class and not get a ticket.

"We were actually pretty successful this semester," Norris said. "After we did it once, it was like, 'This is pretty easy!' I have yet to get a ticket this semester."

Although they've been making progress, Norris and Bowles haven't checked everything off yet. Bowles said the one she is most excited about is to camp out on campus.

"I'm dying to do it," she said. "But we're scared to death we'll get in trouble."

With only a week left in school, Norris said they're "starting to freak out."

"We really want to get done everything on the list," she said.

Sharon Buzzard, director for University Experience, said that although getting an education should be a student's priority, getting involved in other ways is a close second.

"A strong sense of involvement in university life and activities on campus gives an opportunity to grow outside of the classroom," she said.

After graduating, Norris, an economics major, said she



CHRIS FRYER/HERALD

From left, Glasgow seniors Tessa Norris and Laura Bowles do cannon balls into the swimming pool in the Preston Center Thursday morning. The plunge was one of 20 items on their bucket list of things to do at Western before they graduate. "It's about appreciating little things," Norris said. The two friends also hope to camp out on campus and meet President Gary Ransdell.

may go to graduate school or apply for the Peace Corps.

Bowles, who's in the hospitality management program, said they're both just looking forward to hanging out through the summer.

Norris and Bowles met at Western and moved in together three years ago. But when they decided to be roommates, they barely knew each other.

"We were desperate — we both needed roommates," Bowles said. "We found a house and moved in. And the world has never been the same!"

Norris said she hoped that people who see their list will be inspired to do something similar.

"This is just a short list — we've done so many other things that I'm so thankful for," she said. "It's easy to get in the flow of things and stand on the sidelines, but there are so many opportunities here, and that's what I think people should take away from college."

“

Everybody has things they want to do before they graduate. You spend four years of your adult life here, and it's about being involved on campus. I think that's really important."

—TESSA NORRIS
Glasgow senior

COLUMN

Western was right for me

By CHRISTINA HOWERTON
news@chherald.com

When I decided to come to Western four years ago, I wasn't so sure that it would be the right place for me.

I was focused on going to school in a bigger city, where I was sure I'd get more opportunities to be a "big-time" reporter.

My parents and I made a deal. If I came to Western instead of a more expensive school, they'd pay for it and buy me a new car.

I got the good end of the deal.

Now, I have no loans, a maroon 2006 Mazda 3 and four great years at what has turned out to be the perfect school for me.

I've made friends who I'm sure I'll stay friends with forever, been able to learn foreign languages and, most of all, become

prepared to move to a big city and try to become the big-time reporter I've always dreamt of being.

In the fall, I'm moving to Washington, D.C., to get my master's degree in International Media at the American University. That program will, I hope, help me get international reporting experience so that I can get a job as a foreign correspondent.

It was Western — and more specifically the Herald — that helped me get into the School of International Service at American, which claims to be the best school in the country for international studies.

I have almost four years of reporting experience at the Herald, ranging from features to administration to editing.

When I was just a week into my freshman year here, Ashlee Clark, the Herald editor at

the time, hired me as a features writer.

I think I bugged her about hiring me so much during my first week at Western that she decided to give in. I remember vividly how nervous I was about reporting on my first story, which was about the annual Constitution Week. I was just afraid of disappointing her.

That first year at the Herald set a standard for how hard I needed to work to make it in journalism.

Ashlee is still someone I look up to, because she continues to be brave and takes chances.

Now, I'm in my last week at the Herald, and I hope that I'm making the same kind of impact on the younger reporters.

If I've influenced them at all in the way Ashlee influenced me and my classmates at the

Herald, then my time has been well spent.

I'll miss the hours I spent with Michelle Day, Jan Diehm and Andrew Robinson talking about how we'd inspire the new reporters and get them to understand Herald tradition the way the seniors did when we were freshmen.

Along the way, their advice has made the biggest impact.

Michelle and Jan sat next to me and read my hundreds of graduate school application essays, no matter how redundant and boring they were, making sure I didn't get discouraged.

Andrew listened to me ramble on about my dream and said go for it every time.

I'm going to need them next year, when my classmates are all former Ivy Leaguers, and I need a confidence boost.

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COLUMN

Opportunity: make the most of it

By **ANDREW ROBINSON**
sports@chherald.com

So this is how the end feels.

I still remember that hug I gave my mom on a soggy Sunday afternoon in the old parking structure before she headed back to Kansas after moving me into McCormack Hall in August of 2006.

I didn't have a car, I didn't know anyone within a 500-mile radius and I didn't know the difference between north and south at the time.

What I had was opportunity sitting in front of me.

It didn't take long before I applied to work at the Herald. My first story was about Bethaney Adams, a quadriplegic fencer.

From there I covered all kinds of things. I still remember watching the courage and heart that volleyball player Jenna Gideon played with in the 2007 Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

I remember Ty Rogers hitting the game-winning shot in Tampa.

I remember the text that David Elson had been fired last November.

But at the end of the day, I'm going to remember the opportunity I got by leaving the bubble of Johnson County, Kan., and taking a risk by attending Western Kentucky University.

People at home still ask, "Why Western Kentucky?"

I tell them, "Because of the journalism school." I don't let them on to the other se-

crets like how nice the people or campus are.

I think it worked out for the best.

I've been surrounded by amazing people the past four years from the time I met Taylor Lansdale and John Bennett when Lansdale got his putter, a golf ball and solo cup and started putting in McCormack the day we moved in.

At the Herald, I've had Bob Adams' office to walk into every day with whatever I was thinking, and he was always there to listen.

Every day I walk into the Adams-Whitaker Student Publications Center, I realize how lucky I am to have the people around me I do.

It's impossible to individually name every person that had an impact on me while I've been here.

In a month or so, I'll find myself in another unfamiliar place. I'm going to be an intern at the Wall Street Journal in New York.

But I'm confident things are going to be fine because of my experience at Western.

Next week, I'll pack my Geo Prizm up, take down my all my Royals stuff in my room, safely pack my bobbleheads away and venture back to Overland Park, Kan., for a few weeks before heading to New York.

I still have a few hours to finish up at Western next fall. I plan to have a behind-the-scenes role at the Herald with a few projects planned as well as traveling to catch some Nebraska football games. It'll be nice to sit back and enjoy the ride. I guess you could say next fall will be more of an encore.

The main act sure has been fun.



CONGRATUALATIONS.

student
publications

seniors

Scott McIntyre
Brian Sullivan
Krista Jakobi
Danielle Straub
Hannah Schuster
Christina Hesse-Colon
Shuhei Tsunekawa

Christina Howerton
Kristin Wilson
Giovanni DeVita
Kascey Passmore
Meghann Moss
Jill Erwin
Alison Sumner
Josh Raymer
Daniel Hobbs
Caralyne Wright

2009-2010

2009

September 2009

Swine flu hit Western's campus. During the fall semester, Health Services received thousands of vaccinations.

October 2009

Health Services received its first swine flu vaccinations. Over the rest of fall semester, it administered thousands of vaccines.



November 2009

Mathematics Professor Martha "Bettina" Richmond, 51, was found dead in her van at Bowling Green Parks and Recreation. Family and friends later announced they were offering a \$10,000 reward for any information about her murder.



RICHMOND

20,000+

September 2009

Western officials prepared for enrollment to exceed 20,000 students. Provost Barbara Burch said Western grows faster than any other university in the state.

October 2009

The Bowling Green City Commissioners voted to move a parking garage within the downtown redevelopment plan closer to Western from Sixth Avenue and College Street. Plans for the area also include a hotel and an alumni center.

November 2009

Western officials started mailing out student debit cards. The university partnered with a financial services and payment company called HigherOne to mail out the cards, which students could use to manage their leftover scholarship, loan or grant money.



SELIG



KAHLER

November 2009

The Board of Regents postponed raises for then-Athletics Director Wood Selig and Dean Kahler, former associate vice president for Enrollment Management. Faculty, staff and students protested the raises before the meeting.

September 2009

Western officials decided not to appeal the decision to award \$200,000 to the estate of Melissa "Katie" Autry, who was raped, sodomized and set on fire in her Poland Hall room in 2003. The decision marked the end of the six-year case.



IN REVIEW

compiled by Emily Ulber and Mary Barczak from previous Herald reports | design by Josh Moore

2010

January 2010

Regents approved higher salaries for Kahler and Selig. Kahler later resigned to work as executive director of Navitas at Western, and Selig announced that he accepted the Athletics director job at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

February 2010

Western officials announced they were "raising the bar" for admission. High school students who have lower than a 2.0 grade point average and comprehensive ACT score below 16 are no longer eligible for admission, and the minimum ACT score required for admittance will increase by one point every year for the next five years. By 2014, the minimum score will be 20.

February 2010

Western officials explained the upcoming merger between Bowling Green Community College and the University College. The merger will be complete on July 1. There will no longer be a distinction between admission to Western or the community college.

March 2010

Jonathan Ryan Skinner, a junior from Brentwood, Tenn., was killed after he acted as the getaway driver in a bank robbery in Gallatin, Tenn.



SKINNER

March 2010

Students made the switch to the NetID campus log-in system, which consisted of three letters and five numbers and was used for campus computer labs and online systems, including Webmail and Blackboard.



Secure Access Login

NetID:

Password:

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April 2010

Western's benefits committee approved domestic partner benefits at a last-minute meeting, after a nearly five-year push to do so. Faculty, staff and students had protested earlier decisions to deny benefits in the weeks beforehand.

April 2010

Legislators left Frankfort without approving a state budget. Western officials were forced to start formulating a budget for 2010-2012 without knowing how much money they'd get from the state.

April 2010

The Brewing Company, Good Tymes 2 and Froggy's Pizza closed indefinitely after April 30 due to the economy, and Three Brothers closed until the new management is in place on May 14.



BURCH

May 2010

Western officials honored Burch, who is stepping down after more than 13 years in her current post as provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. Burch will remain at Western to work on other initiatives, including the education doctoral program. Gordon Emslie from Oklahoma State University will take her position.

WESTERN SPORTS

2009

Oct. 1, 2009

After torrential rain storms prior to the Western-Central Arkansas football game, Western officials announced that cars could no longer park on the grass before to football games after lawns around campus were damaged.



Sept. 5, 2009

In their first game as a full-fledged Football Bowl Subdivision member, Western lost to Tennessee 63-7. The Toppers' only touchdown came with 2:41 remaining in the third quarter when sophomore Bobby Rainey capped off a nine-play, 66-yard drive with a 19-yard spurt into the end zone.

Nov 23, 2009

After a two-week search for Western's next football coach, Athletics Director Wood Selig and President Gary Ransdell announced that former Western quarterback as well as assistant coach Willie Taggart was going to be Western's next head coach.



Nov 9, 2009

Head Coach David Elson was fired after an 0-9 start to the season. Elson agreed to finish the season out. Western ended the season with a 24-20 loss to Arkansas State and an 0-12 record.



2009-2010

compiled by Jonathan Lintner from previous Herald reports | design by Andrew Robinson

2010

Feb. 19, 2010

Less than a month after receiving a new contract from Western, Athletics Director Wood Selig announced that he accepted the same position at Old Dominion University citing family as the reason for moving back to Virginia.

Feb. 28, 2010

Once again, the men's and women's track teams won Sun Belt Conference indoor championships. It was the Toppers' second indoor championship in three years. For the women, it was their fifth straight indoor title.

Feb. 20, 2010

Both the Toppers and Lady Toppers won the Sun Belt Conference swimming and diving championships. It was the first time both the men and women won Sun Belt championships in the same season since 2005.



March 12, 2010

President Gary Ransdell announced Ross Bjork as Western's new athletics director. Bjork previously worked at Western and came from UCLA to the Hill.



March 8, 2010

Western's men's basketball team lost 54-48 to Troy in the semifinal round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. School officials then announced they wouldn't accept a postseason bid to anything but the NCAA or National Invitational Tournament.



April 20, 2010

A record-breaking crowd of 6,183 people was on hand to see Western score a school-record 16 runs in a single inning. In front of what turned out to be the largest crowd to see a college baseball game in Kentucky, the Toppers knocked off Kentucky 24-8 at the Bowling Green Ballpark.

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Kathryn Crawford
Alex Isbill
Chris Kinney
Kelsey Mattingly
Jordan Olberding
Mackenzie Perkins
Lauren Snider
Suzanne Spalding
Morgan Stone
Anna Vied
Kaitie Vonderschmitt
Josh Wiseman

2010-2011 Returning Members

Megan Dunlevy (Coordinator of Membership)
Whitney Montgomery (Coordinator of Events)
Chelsea Moulden
Jennifer Phillips
Amanda Pursell
Clay Simpson
Alyssa Stephens
Jennifer Thomas (Coordinator of Recruitment)
Chad Willis

Outgoing Members

(*Denotes graduating senior, #Denotes 3-year member)

Courtney Aldrich*
Jenna Binion*
Amanda Brown#* (Outgoing Coordinator of Events)
Tyler Clark*
Brittany Kittleman#* (Outgoing Coordinator of Membership)
Justin Mobley*
Helen Fay Pruitt#*
Maggie Roe#* (Outgoing Coordinator of Recruitment)
Beth Truax#*
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Jessica Wilson*



HonorsToppers

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